Wheat variety cited

By JAMES A. SMITH

From the calls we've had, many Appomattox farmers will turn to one of the new wheat varieties this fall. Coker 747, McNair 1003, Wheeler, Tyler, Coker 762 are all top varieties. If you haven't made a decision, use one of these.

In the Virginia wheat contest this year the average yield was 71 bushels per acre. Top yield was 98 bushels per acre using Coker 747. The grower seeded 1.5 bushels per acre. The soil fertility was high so no fall fertilizer was applied. Sixty pounds of nitrogen was applied in February.

Coker 747 has been the top performing entry for each of the past three years. Tyler had three entries this year and they were in the top ten yields. In contrast, Arthur was used by three out of the six lowest yields.

A study of how these entries were fertilized suggests that it takes more than 60 pounds of nitrogen from some source to grow 80+ bushels of wheat.

All of the top 12 entries used certified or registered seed. Good seed don't cost--they pay!

* * *

The Virginia Barley Yield Contest had thirteen entries to break 100 bushels per acre.

The top yield was 143 bushels per acre. Barsoy was the variety. In fact, Barsoy was grown by 5 of the top 6 entries. The average yield was 104 bushels.

To produce top barley yields, plant timely, fertilize properly and control aphids if they build up.

* * *

Farmers are warned not to get caught selling protected varieties of small grain. The infringement on the rights of the owners of the protected varieties should not be taken lightly since it could prove rather expensive as well as incurring other legal problems.

McNair 1003, Coker 747 and Abe are protected varieties and can only be sold by variety name as a class of certified seed. Tyler and Wheeler are not protected varieties.

A list of protected small grain varieties is available from this office.

* * *

We need some help from you who can prepare a twist of tobacco. They will be judged and on display during Railroad Festival next weekend.

Entries must be turned in to the County Extension Office by noon, October 9.

* * *

Steers topped out at $72.25 in last Thursday's Lynchburg Calf Sale.

If you have cattle you would like to market through an organized sale, you can still get them in the November 5 sale. Consignments are due no later than October 14.

* * *

Homeowners with house plants may find now is a good time to re-pot plants. Use ⅓ good garden loam (bake for an hour to kill insects and disease), ⅓ peat or woods soil and ⅓ pearlite. Add a small amount of agricultural limestone to the mix.

* * *

Drip or trickle irrigation has proven to result in consistantly higher fruit and vegetable yields with up to 50% water savings and 60% energy savings when compared to conventional sprinkler irrigation. Fertilizer irrigation is possible and can result in additional savings of up to 50% in fertilizer costs.

* * *

We have made an unofficial collection of percipitation this growing season and compared it with the normal precipitation.

Normal		1981
May	3.55	2.18
June	3.17	2.46
July	4.33	9.67
August	3.86	5.47
Sept.	3.97	3.44
Total	18.88	23.22

The 1981 excess for these five months is 4.34 inches.

* * *

ASCS today

Elections planned

By TOM CONRAD

ASC COMMITTEE ELECTIONS - On October 8 the ASCS office will send to all eligible voters in the county nominating petitions for the upcoming ASC community committee elections.

The first duty of newly elected community committee members will be to serve as delegates to elect new members of the county ASC committee.

The ASC community committee election will be conducted by mail from November 27 thru December 7. By turning in a total of five or more petitions, farmers in each ASC community have the opportunity to prepare the slate of nominees themselves. I hope that farmers will submit enough valid petitions to fill the slate.

Shortly after November 2, all petitions will be reviewed. If five or more valid petitions have been received for an ASC community, the county ASCS office will prepare a slate containing the names of all eligible nominees. If less than five valid petitions are received for any ASC community, the County Committee will add nominees needed to complete the slate.

In order to submit a valid petition, three or more ASC farm voters must sign a statement endorsing an eligible candidate. The statement must include certification that the nominee will serve if elected. The nominee must also sign the petition indicating his willingness to serve, if elected. Petitions must be dated and mailed or delivered to the county ASCS office no later than November 2.

GOOD TOBACCO HARVEST - As of September 28 tobacco farmers continue to harvest a fine 1981 crop. Flue-cured tobacco is now 92 percent harvested compared with 82 percent in 1980 and 85 percent average. Fire-cured tobacco is 98 percent harvested, well ahead of 86 percent in 1980 and 90 percent average. Burley harvest is 92 percent complete, compared with 85 percent last year and 83 percent average. Sun-cured tobacco is 93 percent cut, compared with 80 percent in 1980 and 83 percent average. A small number of reports indicate that harvest of Maryland tobacco in Virginia is well past the halfway point.

All tobacco production is forecast at 1.97 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the 1.78 billion pounds produced in 1980.

SS & DE AND COMMODITY LOAN INTEREST RATES TO REMAIN THE SAME - Interest rates for SS & DE and Commodity loans approved on or after April 1, 1981 will continue at 14.5 percent per annum until adjusted.

Under existing law, all loans approved on or after the April 1 date are subject to interest change April and October.

Get A Sports Story Call 352-8215

Photo by Joe Vaughan

THE MUSICAL GROUP, "Two Dukes And A Duchess", will be performing on Saturday, October 10 at the 9th Annual Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival. The group, consisting of Bob Coffey of Appomattox who plays both rhythm and steel guitar; Stella M. Staats, Concord, center, who plays the electric piano, and Vernell Mitchell of Appomattox, right, who played lead guitar, have been performing together for approximately four months. Using a wide variety of music, they perform for church groups, senior citizens groups, and parties. "If you are gonna pay us," laughted Bob, "we won't go!" "But," added Stella, "we'll eat!!"

Happiness is 4-H

Mike McCoy and Brett Marston participated in a special Governor's dinner banquet on the Virginia Tech Campus last Friday. Mike performed as part of a special 4-H Share-the-Fun program that provided entertainment during the banquet, and Brett served as emcee for the entire Share-the-Fun Program. These were excellent opportunities for our young people to develop their confidence and poise.

* * *

The 4-H Teen Leader Club and the Clover Leaf 4-H Club will be sponsoring fund raising programs during this coming weekend's Historic Railroad Festival. The Teen Leaders will be charcoaling quarter pound hamburgers, while the Clover-leaf 4-H Club will be offering helium filled balloons and operating a "fish pond" game. Money raised by these groups will be used to support club programs and activities which the young people will benefit from.

* * *

Thirteen 4-H'ers were involved in last week's Hunter Safety Education Course. The course, which is sponsored by the Virginia Game Commission, provides for six hours of instructions in the use and handling of firearms. Those 4-H'ers taking the course were: Scott Dawson, Bryon Patterson, Rick Pack, Dwayne Patterson, Ed Fulcher, Leigh Ann Taylor, Danny Williams, Denny Drinkard, Angela Seburn, Hampton Nottingham, Leon Watkins, Otha Harris and Brent Stewart. These 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to practice their safety rules at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center rifle range on October 17.

* * *

Over 80% of the 4-H officers at Appomattox Elementary Schools took part in last week's Officer Training Meeting. A big thank you to the Teen Leaders who helped instruct at the meeting: Terri Nash, Marlene Watkins, Karen Stevens, Donna Baldwin, Dale Glover, Laurie Cowan, Laura Walton, Richard Conner, and Blair Smith.

* * *

This week is designated as National 4-H Week and also as Join 4-H Week. All young people between the ages of 9 and 19 are invited to participate in 4-H programs and activities. 4-H programs and activities are conducted without regard to race, color, sex, National origin or handicap. You may call the Appomattox Extension Office at 352-8244 if you have questions about 4-H.

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Club begins season

The Appomattox Homemakers Club began its 1981/82 season on September 29 with a covered dish luncheon and meeting at the home of Mrs. Helen Gunter on Oakleigh Avenue. Following the business meeting, members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal from a great variety of attractive and tasty dishes.

After lunch the guest speaker, Mrs. Jean Hesson, General Supervisor of the Appomattox County School System, gave a very interesting and informative talk, illustrated with a film, showing what our schools are doing to make life more meaningful to physically, emotionally, and mentally handicapped children. Most members of the club had been unaware of the size and scope of this program and left the meeting feeling proud of what the Appomatox schools are doing in this area.

Heating fuel exempt

Individuals purchasing artificial or propane gas, firewood, coal or home heating oil (including Kerosene) for use in their own residences no longer have to pay the 3% state sales and use tax, according to the Virginia Tax Department.

As of October 1, 1981, fuels used domestically for heating, cooking or similiar purposes are exempt from the state tax, but may still be subject to a local 1% tax, depending upon the locality.

Fuel purchased for business, commercial or industrial use will continue to be subject to the full 4% sales and use tax. Property lessors, profit schools, hospitals, homes for adults, nursing homes and nonprofit civic, charitable or religious groups will also have to pay the full 4% tax.

Dealers whose place of business is located in a city or county which continues to impose the 1% local sales and use tax are required to collect the tax on all fuel sales, regardless of the Virginia location of the customer. Dealers located in localities which do not collect the 1% local tax can exempt their sales from this tax, regardless of the customer's location.

Ag teachers to meet here

About sixty agricultural education teachers in Southside Virginia are expected to attend a conference in the Appomattox County High School, Tuesday, October 13.

B. K. Waddell, instructor of agricultural education in the Appomattox County High School, and president of the 14-county group, will preside over the sessions which will begin at 4:45 p.m.

Among those scheduled to appear on the program are L. D. Luck, Halifax County High School; W. L. Motley, Dan River High School; H. H. Higgins, Amherst County High School; and L. E Williamson, Jr., Nottoway County High School.

The group will be welcomed to Appomattox by D. L. Armentrout, principal of the host school. A. H. Carter, agricultural education instructor, is in charge of local arrangements for the conference.

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